

• BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY
MASSACHUSETTS

BELMONT,

• MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2009

MARCH 17,

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- The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chair Hal Shubin. Present were Trustees
- Elaine Alligood, Mary Keenan, Matt Lowrie, David Rich, and Heli Tomford and Director Maureen Connors.
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- The minutes for the meeting of February 17th were unanimously accepted on a motion by Trustee Rich seconded by Trustee Lowrie.
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- Old Business:
- Budget update – Director Connors noted that the budget submitted was the 13.5% midpoint budget to meet the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Accommodation Policy. Still of concern is the issue of custodial help at the library. There will be further conversations with Town Hall on this topic. Budget cuts will have a severe impact on the library's services and programs. To date, the meeting with the Warrant Sub-Committee has not been scheduled.
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- New Building/Siting of 1965 Building – Trustee Keenan located pertinent pages (included in trustees information packet) on this issue in The History of the Belmont Public Library 1868-1975 by Ernest S. Kahane. This book is available at the Reference Desk. The account of the library during the Depression is also included.
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- Kindle – After a conversation with Warrant Committee member Liz Allison, Trustee Keenan requested that another look be taken at the use of Kindles at the library. Director Connors and Trustee Alligood will gather information and consult with Trustee Lowrie before making a recommendation to the trustees.
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- One Book One Belmont (OBOB) – Under the direction of Public Services Librarian Emily Reardon, work is ongoing on this.
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- New Business:
- Sponsorship – Trustees Alligood and Keenan presented ideas from their brain-storming session. There is a feeling that having the trustees raise money for a public, town-supported institution is, inherently, a risky one. If the library is able to surmount the formidable odds in this difficult economic climate and succeed at this, what role will this precedent set for future budget rounds? Should patrons express their concerns before the trustees take action? Trustee Rich suggested that the trustees should think about sponsorships for Sunday openings only after they have first had to close the library on Sundays. How would the library handle a questionable donor? Should an independent advocacy group be responsible for this? This is a topic to revisit at a later date.

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- Trust Funds – Director of Children’s Services Denise Shaver has requested the purchase of the AWE Early Literacy Station and the Scholastic BookFlix program. The latter provides remote access – access from home – to the books in the program. Trustee Tomford asked that parents, adults, and caregivers be reminded of the key role they play in the development of early literacy in their children and that these programs are supplemental. Trustee Tomford moved that money from the earnings of the Jane Gray Dustan Trust Fund be expended to purchase the AWE program for three years at a cost of \$3,660 and Scholastic BookFlix at a cost of \$1,799 at the request of the Director of Children’s Services. Seconded by Trustee Rich, the motion passed unanimously.
- Director Connors will attempt to locate donors/families of three trust funds to re-negotiate what may be purchased with said fund, to include non-fiction books.
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- Committee Reports:
- Policies – The revised Museum Pass Policy was adopted on a motion by Trustee Keenan, seconded by Trustee Alligood, and voted unanimously.
- Trustee Tomford reported on the Monetary Gift Policy Sub-committee meeting on March 10th attended by Belmont residents with expertise in this area: Charlie Hamann, Betsy Watson and Linda Wolfe. The Belmont Library Foundation (BLF) was represented by Gerry Polcari and the Friends of the Belmont Library (FOBL) by President Wendy DeLorey. Director Connors and Trustee Keenan were also in attendance.
- FOBL – Trustee Keenan stated that the Friends are working on web-site development. If anyone knows of a superb public library web-site, please so advise Ms.DeLorey.
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- Director’s Report:
- Ms. Connors’ data shows more usage at the library last winter; this is due to the many programs with the One Book One Belmont program. Trustee Lowrie asked if there could be an MP3 player download station at the library. Discussion of this and the Play-Aways will continue at a subsequent meeting.
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- The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. by a unanimous vote on a motion by Trustee Tomford, seconded by Trustee Rich.
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- The next meeting is Tuesday April 14th. (a week earlier than usual due to school vacation)
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- Respectfully submitted, Mary E. Keenan, Secretary
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